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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Manganese Mine at Chvaletice

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1. In 1948 a deposit of manganese, believed to be the largest in Central Europe, was discovered near Chvaletice (051/158). Soviet experts testing the ore reported that the manganese content was high. Development of the area was begun in 1949. At present three vertical shafts are in operation, and a fourth is to be opened in the near future. At the head of each shaft is an electric hoisting tower and compressor. Operating on a three-shift basis, the mine produces about 280 carloads of ore per day.* This is shipped by rail in the direction of Prelouc, and thence to the USSR.**
2. The mine employs between 4,000 and 4,500 workers including about 2,000 political prisoners.* About 12 Russian civilian mining specialists are on the staff. Leading personnel of the mine administration include the following:
 - a. Laboratory engineer Ing. Jaroslav Prochazka, 28 years old, a Communist.
 - b. Secretary to the Mine Eva Palickova, 28 years old. Manager
 - c. Commander of the Forced Labor Camp Vaclav Potuznik, an ardent Communist and a member of the StB.

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* Comment: When interrogated a second time the source gave information at variance with that contained in this report at several points. He stated that he did not know the output of the mine, and made no mention of political prisoners or specific personnel. It is not known whether this mine is the same as that referred to earlier reports as a new pyrites mine. If it is this figure for output seems to be very high in comparison with the 200,000 tons per year reported earlier.

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** Comment: The source stated in the other interrogation that the ore was shipped in the direction of Brno, but that he did not know the destination.

Attachment: Sketch of the Chvaletice area with key.

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